GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1869
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2007
NEGOTIATIONS WITH BANGLADESH AND BURMA FOR LAYING PIPELINES
Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations are going on with Bangladesh and Myanmar for laying pipelines in the States of North-East region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is likelihood of adverse effect on India's negotiations with Bangladesh and Burma due to prior agreement between Bangladesh and China regarding purchase of areas of natural gas and their development; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) & (b): India had pursued the import of natural gas from A1 and A3 blocks in Myanmar. For evacuation of gas from Myanmar, the option of laying a pipeline through Bangladesh was initially considered. However, as this did not progress owing to differences with Bangladesh, the alternative option of pipeline through north−eastern states of India, bypassing Bangladesh, was also considered. Subsequently, Myanmar has taken a decision to sell the gas to China.
India had also pursued the import of natural gas from Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh held the view that considering their internal demand of gas, they do not have sufficient quantity of gas to export. So presently India does not have a proposal to import gas from Bangladesh.

(c) & (d): Do not arise in view of reply of (a) & (b) above.